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JUL 03 2006

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

27. (Cancelled)

165. – 177. (Cancelled)

178. (Currently Amended.) ~~A method according to claim 176~~ A method of operating a communication system having a plurality of gateway networks coupled to an internet protocol (IP) network and to a public switched telephone (PST) network to route a telephone call over the IP network, the method comprising steps of:

providing a directory server;

accessing the directory sewer to create a plurality of gateway databases, each gateway database associated with one of the plurality of gateway networks and each gateway database comprising a list of telephone numbers that each of the plurality of gateway networks will accept;

connecting a user to one of the plurality of gateway networks via a calling telephone;

accepting a telephone number entered by the user;

accessing the gateway database associated with the gateway network to determine which of the plurality of gateway networks will accept the telephone number entered by the user; and

routing the telephone call from the calling telephone over the IP network

wherein the step of providing a directory server comprises the steps of:

designating one of the plurality of gateway databases as a master database;

designating the remaining gateway databases as slave databases; and

creating within a schema of the master database objects representing components of the communication system to create the directory server.

179. – 181. (Cancelled)

184. (Cancelled)